चूरे से इस्पात तैयार करने के लिए रेजीनेस प्रक्रिया-प्रौद्योगिकी के विकास के निधियन हेतु प्रस्ताव को भी मंजूरी दे दी है।

(घ) इस्पात विकास निधि का संग्रह मुख्य रूप से प्रमुख इस्पात उत्पादकों को दिए गए ऋणों के रूप में है। दिनांक 1-4-95 की स्थिति के अनुसार कुल बकाया ऋण लगभग 5090 करोड़ रुपये था। जबकि दिनांक 31-1-96 को निधि में शेष नकद मात्र 2.82 करोड़ रुपये था।

(ङ) इस्पात विकास निधि प्रबंधन समिति द्वारा निर्धारित ब्याज दरें निम्नानुसार हैं:—

उत्पादन से सीधे जुड़े, ऋणों पर 8%, तथा

अवसंरचना कार्यों से संबंधित ऋणों पर 5%

Target for the production of steel

534. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:
SHRI NAGAMANI:
SHRMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the production of steel during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether a large number of mini steel plants have been closed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The anticipated production of finished steel by 1996-97, the terminal year of Eighth Five Year Plan, is about 23.8 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Electric Arc Furnace industry, also known as mini steel plants, is characterised by a pre-dominance of small sized furnaces which are not able to adopt modern technological features. Coupled with this, labour, financial and managerial problems faced by these units led to the closure of a number of units over a period of time. In addition, their performance has been adversely affected by the rise in the international prices of scrap which constitutes their basic raw material and other factors like high power tariff.

Schemes for welfare of minorities

535. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2809 given in Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1995 and state:

(a) the details of the schemes and programmes which have so far been implemented for the welfare of minorities in the country;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to provide some special incentives to them; and

(c) if so, what are the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The 15-Point Programme for welfare of minorities announced in 1983 is being implemented at the Centre and State levels. The Programme on visages various welfare measures including safety and security of life and property and schemes for their socio-economic and educational upliftment. The details of the various schemes which are being implemented are as follows:

The scheme of pre-examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria is being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare as a Central scheme for the target groups consisting of OBCs and minorities with the objective of increasing their in-take in Government services and professional institutions.

The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation is implementing schemes for promotion of self-employment ventures for the backward sections among minorities through various State Channelising Agencies. They are providing loans at concessional rates.